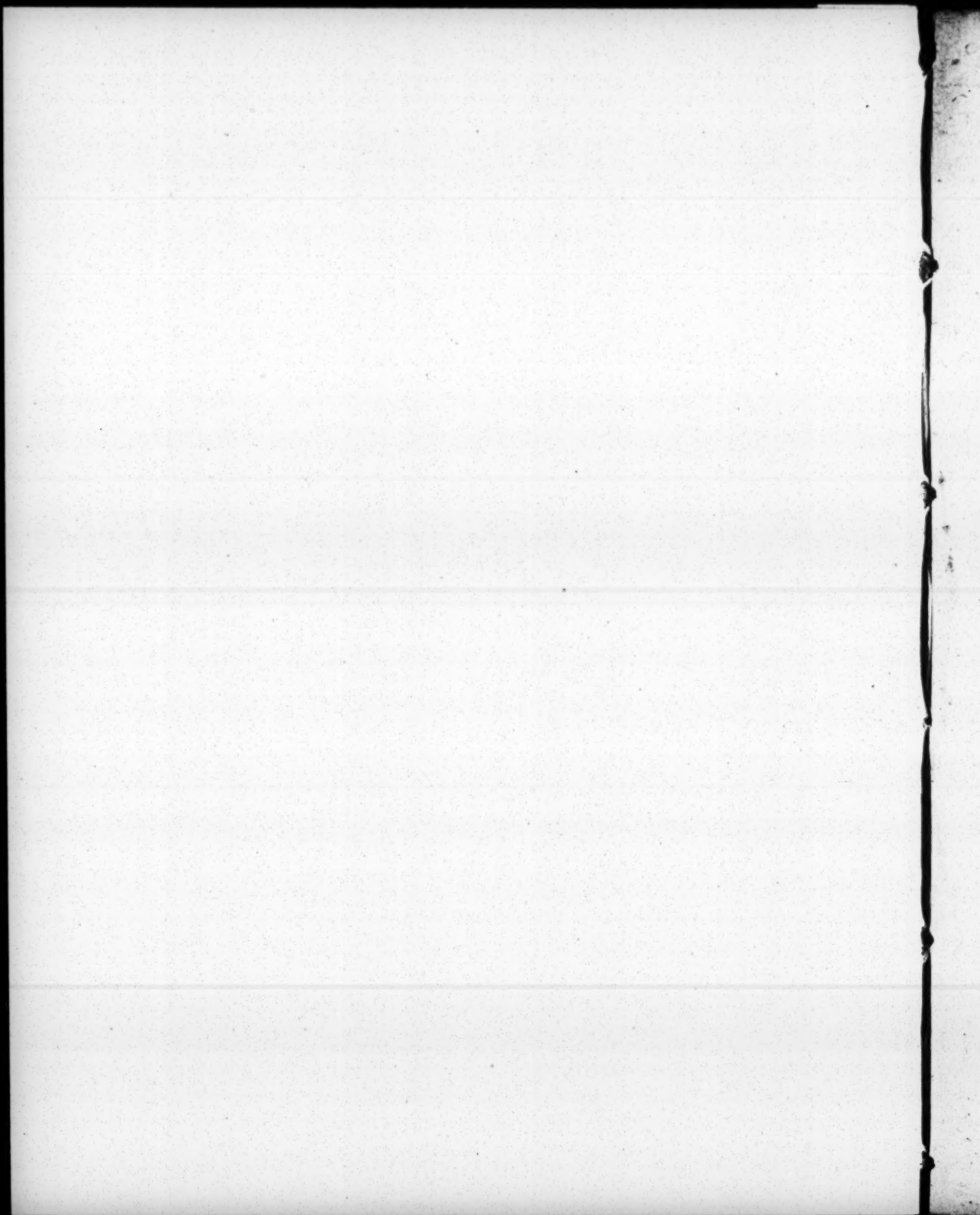


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FRANK BREWER BEMIS
OF BOSTON



THE LAST
WILL
AND
TESTAMENT
OF

Dr. John Donne,

WHO

Dyed at his House in Covent Garden,
1^o Febr. 1662.

Published to prevent the mis-understan-
ding his RELIGION.

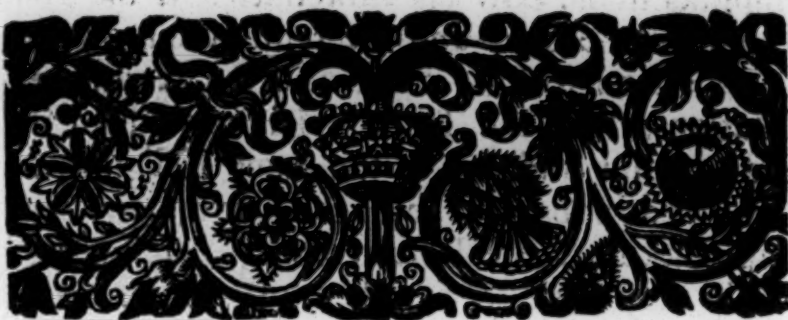
P S A L. 89. 4.

Disposui Testamentum Electis meis.

L O N D O N,
Printed in the Year, 1663.

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August 6, 1947

Received of the Treasurer
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*The Last Will and Testament
of Doctor John Donne.*

*Video meliora proboq; Adieu mon Droit
Julii 21. 1657. Dieu est mon Droit.*



*I**n the Name of God Amen.
I John Donne, by the mercy
of Jesus Christ being at this
time in good and perfect un-
derstanding, do hereby make
my last Will and Testament
in Manner and Form follow-
ing. First, I give my good and gracious God
an entire Sacrifice of Body and Soul, with my
most humble thanks, for that his blessed Spirit*
A 2 im-

imprints in me now an assuredness of the salvation of the one, and the resurrection of the other: And for that constant and cheerful resolution which the same Spirit established in me, to live and dye in the same Religion established in *England*, by the known Law. In expectation of the Resurrection, I desire my Body may be buried in the most private manner that may be, in the Church-yard of the Parish where I now live, without the Ceremonies of calling any Officers. And I desire to be carried to my Grave by the ordinary Bearers of the dead, without troubling any of my Friends, or letting them know of my death by any means, but by being put into the Earth. And I desire my Executor to Interpret my meaning in this Request, by my words, and not by his own discretion, who, peradventure for fashion sake, and apprehending we shall never meet, may think to order things better for my credit; God Almighty be thanked, I have not lived by juggling; therefore I desire to dye and be buried without any. And not having, as I hope, been burdensome to my Friends in my life, I would not load their shoulders, being dead. I desire and appoint the Right Honourable, *Ferome* Earl of *Portland* to be my Executor, hoping that for all his cares of me, and
kind-

kindnesſes to me, he will undertake to ſee this
 my Will punctually performed, eſpecially
 concerning my burial. To the moſt excel-
 lent, good, kind, virtuous, honorable Lady
Portland, I give all the reſt that I have in
 this Will unbequeathed; And I do not this
 fooliſhly, as may at the firſt ſight appear,
 becauſe my Lord is my Executor, but be-
 cauſe I know it will pleaſe the gayetie of her
 humor, which ought to be preſerved for all
 their ſakes that have the honour and happy-
 neſſe to be known unto her. To the Right
 Honorable the Lord *Newport* I bequeath the
 Picture of *Saint Anthony* in a round Frame.
 To my very kind Friend Mr. *John Harvy*, the
 Picture of the *Samaritane*, by whoſe kindneſſe
 I have been often refreshed. To my good
 Friend Mr. *Chriſtopher Guys*, Sir *Thomas Mores*
 head, which upon my Conſcience, I think,
 was not more Ingenious than his own. And
 I write this rather as a Commemoration,
 than a Legacy, for I have alwaies made a
 difference between kindneſſes and courteſies.
 To Mr. *George Pitt* I give the Picture of my
Dutch Faire, which is full of buſineſſe, but
 where there was alwaies room for a kindneſſe;
 And I brag of the favours I received from
 him, becauſe they came not by chance. To
 my Cozen *Henry Stafford's Sonne*, my kind
 Friend

Friend Mr. *William Stafford*, I give all my Printed Books, which although they are of no great value, yet they may seem proportionable to his youth, and may serve as a memorial to encline him to be as indulgent to poor Schollars, as his Father and Grandfather have been before him. And by this means I give not onely a Legacy, but entayle it upon other men that deserve their kindnesse. To my honorable Friend Sir *Allen Broderick*, I give my *Cedar Table* to adde a fragor to his excellent writing. To my kind Friend Mr. *Thomas Killebrew*, I give all my Doves, that something may descend upon a Courtier that is an Emblem of kindnesse and truth. To my Servant *Mary Webb*, if she be with me at the time of my death, I give all my Linnen that belongs to my personal use, and forty shillings above her wages, if it does not appear that she hath occasioned my death, which I have often lived in fear of, but being alone could never help, although I have often complained of my sad condition to my nearest Relations, 'twas not fit to trouble others. To Mr. *Isaac Walton* I give all Writings under my Fathers hand, which may be of some use to his Son, if he makes him a Schollar. To the Reverend *Bishop of Chichester*, I return the Cabinet that was my Fathers, now in my Dyning-room; and

(7)

and all those papers that are Authors annalized by my Father, many of which he hath already received, with his Common-Place-Book, which I desire may passe to Mr *Walton's* Son, as being more likely to have use of such a help when his age shall require it. These four sides of this small Paper being written by my own hand, I hope will be a sufficient Testimony that this is my last Will, and such trivial things were not fit for a greater Ceremony than my own hand and seal, for I have lived alwaies without all other Witnesses, but my own Conscience, and I hope I have honestly discharged that. I have in a paper annexed something at this present, and may do something hereafter, which I presume my most Honorable good Lord of *Portland* will see performed.

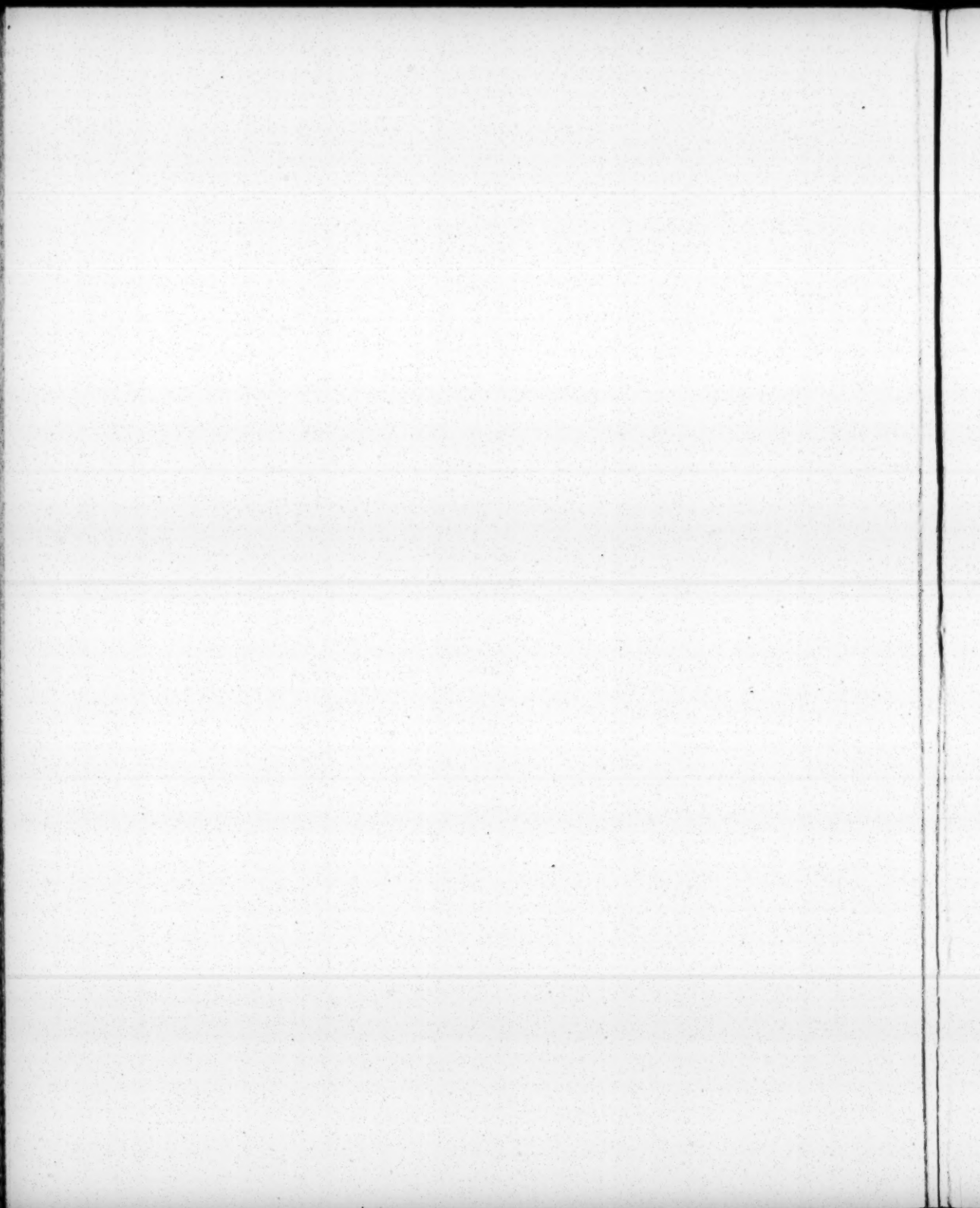
John Donne.

When I made this Will I was alone, afterwards I desired my good Friends the Earl of Marleburgh, and Mr. Glascock to witness it, which was November the 2d. 1661.

Marleburgh.
Will. Glascock.

John Donne.

F I N I S /



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